

Claims

We claim:

- 5 1. A method of dispensing a prescription drug to a customer, the method
comprising:
 receiving a prescription for a particular customer from an authorized medical
professional;
 choosing from an inventory of drugs a prescription drug to fill the
10 prescription;
 creating a finished prescription by filling the prescription with the chosen
prescription drug; and
 placing the finished prescription in a dispenser, the dispenser connected to a
computer, the computer identifying the finished prescription and controlling the dispenser to
15 dispense the finished prescription to the particular customer.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising associating the finished
prescription with a random location in the dispenser utilizing the computer.
- 20 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein controlling the dispenser comprises
retrieving the finished prescription from the random location in the dispenser.
4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying the customer utilizing
an identification reader.

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5. The method of Claim 4, wherein utilizing an identification reader comprises utilizing a magnetic stripe card reader.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein utilizing an identification reader comprises
5 utilizing a barcode reader.

7. The method of Claim 4, further comprising verifying an identity of the customer utilizing a password.

10 8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
identifying the customer utilizing a user name; and
verifying an identity of the customer utilizing a password.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
15 identifying the customer utilizing a prescription number; and
verifying an identity of the customer utilizing a password.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising electronically recording a signature of the customer to purchase the finished prescription.

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11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising photographing the customer during interaction with the dispenser.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising utilizing the computer to maneuver a picker assembly throughout the dispenser, and wherein the picker assembly dispenses the finished prescription to the customer.

5 13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising verifying the dispensing of the finished prescription.

14. The method of Claim 1, further comprising labeling the finished prescription with at least one of a barcode and an electronic identification tag correlating the customer to
10 the finished prescription.

15. A method of dispensing a prescription drug to a customer, the method comprising:

receiving a prescription for the customer from an authorized medical professional;

5 selecting an appropriate prescription drug to fill the prescription;

filling a container with the appropriate prescription drug;

depositing the container in an automated storage facility;

associating the container with a random location in the automated storage facility utilizing a computer;

10 storing the container in the random location in the automated storage facility;

retrieving the container from the random location in the automated storage facility upon an interaction between the customer and the computer; and

dispensing the container directly to the customer.

15 16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising identifying the customer utilizing an identification reader.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein utilizing an identification reader comprises utilizing a magnetic stripe card reader.

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18. The method of Claim 16, wherein utilizing an identification reader comprises utilizing a barcode reader.

19. The method of Claim 16, further comprising verifying an identity of the
25 customer utilizing a password.

20. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
identifying the customer utilizing a user name; and
verifying an identity of the customer utilizing a password.
- 5 21. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:
identifying the customer utilizing a prescription number; and
verifying an identity of the customer utilizing a password.
22. The method of Claim 15, further comprising electronically recording a
10 signature of the customer to purchase the container.
23. The method of Claim 15, further comprising photographing the customer
during interaction with the automated storage facility.
- 15 24. The method of Claim 15, further comprising utilizing the computer to
maneuver a picker assembly throughout the automated storage facility, and wherein the
picker assembly dispenses the container to the customer.
25. The method of Claim 15, further comprising verifying the dispensing of the
20 container.
26. The method of Claim 15, further comprising labeling the container with at
least one of a barcode and an electronic identification tag correlating the customer to the
container.

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